

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN EDWARD BUTCHER**, on April 10, 2003 at 4 P.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Edward Butcher, Chairman (R)
Sen. Sherm Anderson (R)
Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella (D)
Sen. Mike Cooney (D)
Sen. Aubyn Curtiss (R)
Sen. Bob DePratu (R)
Sen. Sam Kitzenberg (R)
Sen. Jerry O'Neil (R)
Sen. Gerald Pease (D)
Sen. Glenn Roush (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Duane Grimes, Vice Chairman (R) None.
Sen. Dan Harrington (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Shirley Herrin, Committee Secretary
Pat Murdo, Legislative Branch

Video-taped Committee: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. A video-taped recording of the meeting is available from the Montana Historical Society.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 489, 4/7/2003
Executive Action: SB 489

HEARING ON SB 489

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

4:01 **SEN. MIKE COONEY, SD 26, Helena** "Designate highway as purple heart trail". **SEN. COONEY** stated he was speaking on behalf of **SEN. JIM ELLIOTT**, sponsor of SB 489.

Proponents' Testimony:

4:02 Joe Goldes, Military Order of the Purple Heart
4:08 Emil Eschenberg B.G. USA (Ret)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Witnesses:

4:10 John Blacker, Administrator, Maintenance Division,
 Department of Transportation

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

4:11 **SEN. BUTCHER** questioned John Blacker about the cost of erecting the signs.

Closing by Sponsor:

4:12 **SEN. COONEY** closed on SB 489. He shared a personal story about an uncle who had been lost in World War II and never recovered. He said he discovered a family could have a monument erected for those lost servicemen in Arlington Cemetery, so he completed all the necessary paperwork, and the government held a full honors ceremony with a folded flag and tombstone for his uncle.

Discussion:

4:16 A discussion was held regarding the which highways in Montana were to be designated "Purple Heart Trails".

4:20 **SEN. VICKI COCCHIARELLA** shared with the committee that her father was a purple heart recipient but she had never heard the story from him how he had received it, but heard it from others whom he had spoken to.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 489

4:22 **SEN. COONEY** moved a conceptual amendment to say that all Interstate Highways in Montana would be designated as "Purple Heart Trails". **EXHIBIT**(his77a01) The motion carried unanimously.

4:23 Motion/Vote: **SEN. COONEY** moved that SB 489 DO PASS AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:27 P.M.

SEN. EDWARD BUTCHER, Chairman

SHIRLEY HERRIN, Secretary

EB/SH

EXHIBIT (his77aad)